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General Meeting
Calflora.org
Sept. 21, 7:30 p.m.
Speaker: John Malpas

Calflora is a website for native plant enthusiasts. It was conceived as a collaborative research project to collect and re-distribute information about California's wild plants, including habitat descriptions, photographs, observations, nomenclature, and distribution maps. Designed as a digital library, Calflora provides information to the public, private organizations, academic institutions, and public agencies, serving a large and increasing number of users, including researchers, scientists, students, environmental consultants, landscapers, and amateur enthusiasts. Over 10,000 plants are listed and thousands of photographs are available.

This presentation will go over the basic features of the website, and then show off some recent applications such as What Grows Here?, Places to View CA Native Plants, as well as applications that enable you to contribute plant observations and photos. We will explore Calflora's coverage of Sonoma Co. wild plant life, with thanks to local botanists who have added to that coverage, and encouragement to others to fill in some of the gaps. Visit the website at www.calflora.org.

*Information regarding CalFlora came directly from the website and was also provided by Mr. Malpas.

Join us for Dinner before the Meeting:
We’ll gather for dinner at 6PM at Kirin Restaurant, 2700 Yulupa Ave. We hope our speaker will join us, but we always have an enjoyable group of fellow members and a delicious Northern Chinese meal in any case. Please contact Liz Parsons, 833-2063, lizpar8993@aol.com by June 14th if you plan to attend.

Plant ID Hour
You see the plants blooming but the names are unclear? No need to fret, Plant ID. Hour is here! Arrive at 6:45 p.m. before the Sept. 15th General Meeting, and bring specimens of plants you want to identify. At Plant ID. Hour you can see plants up close and key them to species, while getting to know fellow Milo Baker Chapter members. Plants that you key out or learn with friends are easily remembered! Bring in some mystery plants to challenge us. I am retiring the microscope, but will bring some flowering plants from the local area. Keying is worthwhile and challenging for all of us, but it’s fun to work through them together, and learn what distinguishes this plant from that one.

*General Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center, 2050 Yulupa Avenue, Santa Rosa. Milo Baker Chapter Board meetings start at 7:00pm, 2nd Tuesday nine months of the year, Environmental Center, 55 Ridgeway Avenue, Suite A, Santa Rosa. The next Board meeting is Sept. 14th. Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend!
I have posted a partial plant list on the website. As always, we will shop for plants at Cal Flora in Fulton and Mostly Natives in Tomales. These nurseries are also very generous in their donations to our sale.

I am very excited about the number of plants that we will have this year. We will have lots of sword ferns (*Polistichum munitum*), deer ferns (*Blechnum spicant*) and giant chain ferns (*Woodwardia fimbriata*). (Ferns are especially on my mind because at plant sale time I will have just returned from a trip with a Jepson Herbarium group on a tour organized for the study of the ferns of Hawaii).

In December, we potted up over 100 PCN hybrid iris in beautiful colors including striped gold, striped brown, red-violet w/gold blaze, magenta, lavender w/yellow, and one that we call Sunset. We will also have many of the straight species - *Iris douglasiana*.

My garden is ablaze with California fuchsia aka Zauschneria. It blooms profusely from July until the first frost. The bright red-orange flowers make it the star of the late summer garden. It should be planted in the hottest, driest part of the garden. It responds well to a little water, but not too much because it spreads by underground runners and might invade other parts of the garden. The sale will feature many California fuchsias (Epilobium sp.). *Epilobium canum* 'Calistoga' is a variety that Phil Van Soelen (co-owner of California Flora Nursery in Fulton) collected in the Pallisades near Calistoga in Napa County. It grows to 1 foot tall with wide grey-green leaves and scarlet flowers. It is a slow spreader. Other varieties that we will have include *E. c. 'Select Mattole' (very flat with bright red flowers), 'Schieffelin's Choice,' 'Chaparral Silver.' We will also have several varieties of *Salvia*. *Salvia clevelandii* ‘Allen Chickering’ is shrubby (5' tall x 6' wide) with lavender flowers and grey leaves. *S. clevelandii* ‘Winnifred Gilman’ has green leaves and purple flowers--stunning--and grows to 4' x 4'. *S. leucophylla* ‘Pt. Sal’ (3' tall x 6' wide) pink flowers with grey, white leaves, and is great shrubby ground cover. Salvia 'Bee's Bliss' with a growth habit similar to Sonoma sage (low growing groundcover, very drought tolerant), only easier to grow. We will also have limited numbers of *Salvia 'Dara's Choice' (similar to Sonoma sage), S. apiana* (white sage with white flowers-3' x4'), and *Salvia spathacea* (hummingbird sage) which creeps by underground runners and has large pink flowers. We will be offering Yerba Buena, *Satureja douglasii*. This is a fragrant, creeping plant that is a great addition to the shade garden. It is lovely cascading down a wall. There will be a huge selection of *Mimulus aurantiacus*, sticky monkeyflower. These Mimulus are very drought tolerant and love a sunny location with little summer water. We will have the following varieties: 'Trish,' 'Rob's Orange,' ‘Vibrant Red,’ ‘Eleanor' and ‘Pumpkin’. Other unusual plants at the sale include: *Ribes sanguineum glutinosum 'White Icicle,' -chaparral currant, Carpenteria californica - bush anemone, Atriplex breweri - quailbush, Cercis occidentalis - Redbud, Sequoia sempervirens (redwood) - Apts Blue, Myrica californica (wax myrtle) and Penstemon heterophyllus 'Margaret BOP' and ‘Blue Springs'.

Last year's water crisis caused many gardeners to re-think their plant selection and many want more drought tolerant, habitat plants. This benefits our sale because many of our natives are drought-tolerant and can be used in a water-wise landscape, also called a xeriscape. Ceanothus, or wild lilac, is a great drought tolerant plant that fits well in the dry garden and in the habitat garden. At the sale we will have *Ceanothus hearstiorum*, C. ‘Dark Star,’ C. ‘Centennial,’ and C. 'Anchor Bay.' Manzanitas (Arctostaphylos) are another large group of plants from the chaparral. At the sale, we will have Arctostaphylos uva-ursi 'Emerald Carpet' (groundcover), A. densiflora 'Howard McMinn' (5'x5'), and A. ‘Dr. Hurd' (very tall to 12'). Manzanitas and wild lilacs come in sizes from small shrubby ground covers to large (15') shrubs. There will be a table featuring habitat plants at the sale. We hope that Louise...
Hallberg will be able to attend to answer all of your butterfly plant questions. There will be wonderful CA native bulbs from Brent and Becky's again this year. We have also been increasing the number of seeds that will be offered. So check out the seed and bulb table at the sale, you might be surprised.

**PRICING FOR THE SALE**

Becky Montgomery, Mary Aldrich, Kathi Dowdikan, and I will be pricing and labeling plants the week before the sale. Anyone who has some free time during the day on Tuesday (Sebastopol), Wednesday (Cal Flora), or Thursday (Santa Rosa), please call Liz at 833-2063. These vital tasks go faster if we have a lot of help. The plants will be collected at the usual collection centers. If you are growing plants for the sale please bring them to any of the following collection centers on the weekend before the sale:

1. Mary Aldrich, 4775 Newanga, SR, 539-9005
2. Cal Flora Nursery, D and Sommers, Fulton, 528-8813
3. Hale's Apple Farm, 1526 Gravenstein Highway, N, Dave Hale, 823-4613

**On Friday night we will need truckers to transport plants from the collection center to the Vet's Memorial Building. Call Liz if you have a truck and can help.**

We welcome everyone to our sale and want to provide the plants that they need for their particular purpose. I welcome suggestions. If you have any plant that you would like to see at our sale, let me know and perhaps we will be able to fulfill your request. An almost complete list of plants is on the website (www.cnpsmb.org).

If you helped at our sale last year, Judy Hartwig (823-1821) will be calling you soon to ask you to volunteer. I hope that all members will help us again. This is a huge effort and **WE NEED YOU!**

Call Judy and volunteer. We need cashiers, salespersons, drivers, and help in many areas. Please mark your calendars for October 9 and plan to help us by working at the sale. If you can't work, please come by and shop for plants. Workers only can purchase plants on Friday evening before the sale, so make plans to work for the sale.

The work of the Milo Baker Chapter depends on the success of our plant sale. Our members are our best customers. Please tell your friends to attend and buy plants. Please place our flyer in an area near your home. If everyone does this we will blanket the county with the information.

**FALL IS PLANTING TIME IN CALIFORNIA**

Fall is planting season in California. The soil is still warm and the roots will grow slowly through the rainy season. The following spring, the plants are ready to survive the summer heat. A plant planted in the spring does not have a well-developed root system and will have difficulty surviving through the summer.

**CASA GRANDE POTTING WORKSHOP: A SUCCESS**

On August 7, we had a very successful potting workshop at Casa Grande High School. John Schribbs has a wonderful growing area there and he generously lets us grow our plants there. Thanks to Mary Aldrich, Janet Ross, Kathi Dowdakin, Cindy Trancreto, Charlotte Martin, Anne Aymes, Pat Sesser, Kathleen and Steve Schuler, Mike Barker, Julie Cross, Pat Chan, Maureen Tischler, Cookie and Danny Wilson, Judy Johnson, Elmarie Hutchinson, Alan Brubaker, Phil Persons, and student volunteer, Becky Spitser. With 23 volunteers we were able to put over 800 plants into gallon containers in a little over two hours! John's assistant, Terri Dugar will make sure that the plants are watered and oversee their development.

We potted up liners that were donated by Shooting Star Propagation Nursery in Graton. Thank you Dan and Nancy. Without your generosity, we wouldn't have such a fabulous selection of CA native plants.

**SEED PACKAGING WORKSHOP AND POTLUCK - Wednesday, September 29 - 5PM**

Let's meet at Liz's house in Kenwood for a potluck any time after 5 PM to package seeds and for a potluck. Liz will make her famous enchiladas. We will work very hard putting the seeds in packages and assembling them for the sale on October 9.
Last year eleven people showed up to help with the seed packaging and many brought cleaned seeds! This was wonderful because we had over 30 species of seeds at the sale. I am busy collecting poppy seeds, Madia elegans, and Clarkia species. Look around your area and see if you can collect some seeds for our sale. The seed selection is a special feature of our sale.

*Liz Parsons

*Our President’s Corner will return next month*

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**I nvasives Corner**

**Disposing of Unwanted Plant Material**

So it's time to clean up your garden and get ready for winter. Please be careful with that yard waste. You may be spreading aggressive plants to areas where they don’t belong. Yard or landscape maintenance involves removal of leaves, clippings, whole plants, weeds, and unwanted potted house plants. However, these yard materials can allow some plants to establish in the disposal site given contact with soil and sufficient water. For instance, if you cut off the heads of flowering invasive thistles and pile them up somewhere thinking you have done the right thing, the flowers may continue on to seed dispersal stage. Once I left some fresh cardoon or artichoke thistle (Cynara cardunculus) flowers I had hacked off at Alman Marsh in my trunk for over a month. When I took them out they had gone to seed and the seeds were falling off just waiting for a nice breeze. Disposal sites on the edges of the property from which the material was removed can cause future maintenance and removal efforts. Houses at the edge of Howarth Park have let their ivy spread well into the park creating monocultures of ivy and other invasive plants. But you would never let that happen! Living plant tissue can be destroyed on site through burning, composting in bins, or putting it in or under heavy plastic, where sunlight can rapidly cause decomposition. So what if you just want to get rid of the darn stuff? Your green waste containers are taken to be composted at the dump, and the resultant heat takes care of the problem. If you don't have garbage pickup, or if you have too much to fit in your container, you can drive your materials to the dump for composting. Timing of maintenance operations also can reduce the potential for plants to spread to undesirable sites. Plants can be pruned before fruit is mature or leaf raking can be done before seeds of surrounding plants have dropped. Awareness of how a species is likely to become established is important. You can gain valuable clues from propagation methods. For example, if a species is most likely to be propagated from cuttings (e.g. Hedera sp. or Vinca sp.), pruned material of that plant may take root without appropriate precautions. You probably have a sense of what plants reproduce and grow rapidly in your garden. So even if your plant isn't on an invasives list somewhere you can keep it from becoming a pest.

Here's to guiltless gardening!

(Some of this comes from Doctor Doria Gordon's article in Wildland Weeds)

* M.L. Carle

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**E vents and Items of Interest**

**North Coast Native Nursery**

**Saturday, September 11, 2010 at 10 AM**

Contemplating the Fall Season: Homework and Groundwork

For inspiration and practical information, please attend our Free Workshop: Planning for Fall 2010

We’ll discuss general approaches and considerations when preparing a new site for planting, or for enhancing an existing landscape. Bring photographs, sketches, plant lists and even sample leaves or flowers of those native plants you would like help identifying. Following the workshop presentation there will be expert staff and
resource materials to provide information and suggestions to help you to develop your fall planting goals.

**Preserve Stewardship**
**Rincon Ridge Park**
**Monday, September 13, 10:00-noon**
Work party
Goals for this month: Clear brush and plan future projects.
Coyote Brush grows fast among the rare plants of manzanita and ceanothus in this small preserve. We had a wet winter and that means happy natives, even the ones that are aggressive. With volunteer help we have been able to control the growth of weeds and Coyote Brush plants and keep the existing plants looking healthy. We need to keep this effort up to encourage all the incredible plants that grow within the preserve.
The park is located off of Fountaingrove Parkway and Rincon Ridge Drive (at the stoplight). Go east on Rincon Ridge Dr. then right on Park Gardens drive and park. You can contact me at 695-4063 if you can’t find us.
Bring loppers, gloves, pruners, and saws.
A plant list is available at our website, www.cnpsmb.org
Pat Sesser, Preserve Manager

**Bay Friendly Coalition Org.**
**September 16 and 17**
Transforming Urban Landscapes to Protect Our Water Resources
Bay-Friendly Landscape Conference and Post Conference Tour is open for registration
For public agency and landscape professionals
**Tour Bay-Friendly Rated Landscapes:**
September 16, 8:30 am – 4 pm,
Starts & Ends in Oakland
Visit four gardens and see firsthand how the Bay-Friendly Scorecard can guide your landscape design to create beautiful, healthy and conserving landscapes.
**Conference:** September 17, 2010
St. Mary’s Event Center, San Francisco
8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Featured Keynote Address by Brad Lancaster, Author of *Rainwater Harvesting* for Drylands and Beyond


**North Coast Chapter of Community Alliance with Family Farmers**
**An afternoon at Three Ox Farm**
**Saturday, September 18, 2010 1PM -5PM**
**$10 donation**
Three Ox Farm is a small scale sustainable family farm of 5 acres nestled along the upper stretches up Blucher Creek Southwest of Sebastopol. The farm blends an artistic landscape design with permaculture based farming practices, and extensive native plantings and habitat areas. Homebuilt farm structures of predominantly re-used materials, outdoor planting rooms, watershed stewardship, and ecologically focused farming methods are all in play at Three Ox Farm. The day features the following:
- Tours of production fields and orchards, permaculture practices, wildlife habitat and native plant restoration
- Free cider pressing and extensive samples of the day's harvest (additional fresh produce and products also available to purchase)
Visitors welcome to use swimming pool and bring their own picnic.
Directions: 2827 Blucher Valley Rd., Sebastopol.
Take Hwy 116 to Bloomfield Rd. - Stay on Bloomfield Rd for 3.3miles
Turn right on Blucher Valley Rd. Three Ox Farm is 1/4 mile on the right.
For more information, call 707-544-4582.

**WILDCARE’S**
**Family Adventures/Aventuras Familiares**
**Saturday September 25/ Sábado 25 de Septiembre:**
Beach Family Day/ Vamos a la Playa!
WildCare invites you and your family to join experienced naturalists on Saturday visits to nearby parks to enjoy a day in nature – one Saturday morning each month from July through December, 2010. WildCare’s naturalists will lead fun, free family programs to discover butterflies, flowers, birds and much, much more. Free to the public, these programs will be conducted in both English
and Spanish. Estos programas son en español e ingles y gratuitos para el público.

Questions? Contact Juan-Carlos Solis at 415.453.1000, ext.17/juan-carlos@wildcarebayarea.org.
Información y preguntas en español al 415.45.1000, ext. 17/juan-carlos@wildcarebayarea.org.

19th Annual Russian Riverfest
September 25th, 4:30-7:30pm
Burke’s Canoe Trips
8600 River Road, Forestville
Benefit for Russian Riverkeeper
Gourmet Dinner with fresh, local & organic produce
Sonoma County Organic Wine & Beer Tasting
Live Music by Cahoots
River Appreciation Awards
Silent Auction
Kids’ Activities
Tickets $20 before 9/20 - $25 at Door. Students $10, Kids 12 and under free
Sponsorships available for $150, $300, $600, $1000
Pre-sale tickets available at www.russianriverkeeper.org, or by calling 707-433-1958

Legends of the Fall: exploring the clandestine flora of early fall in the eastern Mojave Desert
September 28-30, 2010
James M. Andre and Tasha La Doux
UC Granite Mountains Desert Research Center
Course Description:
Few botanists journey out in the late summer or early fall in search of colorful blooms of California’s desert plants. Yet the early fall bloom in the eastern Mojave Desert can be more reliable than the more popular spring blooms. This course will introduce botanists to the ecology and taxonomy of the diverse flora of early fall in the eastern Mojave Desert, with special emphasis on rare or unique species.

Cost CNPS members: $435 includes meals and dorm lodging for 2 days & 2 nights
Non-members: $460 includes meals and dorm lodging for 2 days & 2 nights

Location: UC Granite Mountains Desert Research Center, located within the Mojave National Preserve, eastern Mojave Desert.

Target Audience: Professional botanists, ecologists, agency resource managers, and conservationists. Participants should have moderate to advanced taxonomic skills. Field trips will include moderate to short day hikes. For full details and registration go to http://cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/index.php

For additional questions email or call Josie at mailto:jcrawford@cnps.org?subject=Legends of The Fall Mojave workshop or (916) 447-2677 ext 205.

Riverkeeper Stewardship Park Volunteer Days
Wednesdays, 8:30 AM-11:30 AM
On the entire 110 miles of the Russian River this is the place to see and participate in riverbank stewardship. Everyone and all ages are welcome to visit or volunteer. No experience necessary. Activities include: planting and caring for native plants, weeding, erosion control, restoration education and Park cleanup. Students can receive volunteer credit for participating. Light refreshments are provided. We suggest that you bring your own drinking water and wear sturdy footwear. The Park is located at 16153 Main St., Guerneville on the north bank of the Russian River directly upstream of the pedestrian bridge. Access is down a driveway in front of Sonoma Nesting Co. At the bottom of the driveway look for the blue and white sign that says, “ Russian Riverkeeper Demonstration Riparian Restoration Project Future Community Park.” Parking is available near the sign.

***If you have newspapers or cardboard to donate for our sheet mulching projects you may bring it on Wed. or drop off anytime near the sheds at the entrance.

For more information contact Victoria Wikle at 865-2474 or VictoriaWikle@usa.net.
http://www.russianriverkeeper.org
Wildcare’s Junior Botanist Program
Hundreds of Marin County students at Dixie, Manor, Olive, St. Rita’s and Sun Valley schools participated in the Junior Botanist program during the 2009/2010 school year. WildCare partners with naturalist and Terwilliger Environmental Award winner Wendy Dreskin to produce the Junior Botanist program. Introduced by Ms. Dreskin, and taught in Marin County (and home schools that request it), this school-year program teaches K-8 students, in age-appropriate increments, how to identify regional native plants. Many students not only passed the course and received their Junior Botanist Certificates, but many passed at grade levels higher than their school grade. The full list of all 2009/2010 Junior Botanists is posted on WildCare’s website: www.wildcarebayarea.org. For information on the program and how to participate in the 2010/2011 school year, call 415-457-3949.

In Memoriam
Barbara Pitschel
Barbara Pitschel, a CNPS fellow and long time member, has passed away. Many of you may have known Barbara, or have chapter members who have known and loved her for many years. Below is message about her passing sent out by her friend of many years and fellow Yerba Buena Chapter member, Jake Sigg:
Exactly one year and two days after her husband Roland died, Barbara expired this morning at 10:10 am from lung cancer, in the presence of her daughter Justine and two grandchildren.
Barbara and her husband were long-time pillars in the Yerba Buena Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. Among their many contributions, Barbara was the perfectionist editor of the chapter newsletter, a cornucopia of information delivered with rare (these days) accuracy and style. She was also my co-chair on the program committee that consistently delivered high-quality programs for its monthly meetings.

Judy Robertson
Lichenologist and exemplary person
I was unpleasantly surprised to hear that Judy had died of cancer last month. Some of you may remember this delightful, knowledgeable and kind person from field trips she led for us. Judy didn't just lead a field trip, she covered every angle to make sure the participants enjoyed the diversity of lichens, even to the point of bringing plastic for us to sit on as we inspected our samples on a damp day at Armstrong Woods. She loaned all of us a small key with pictures to guide us, a lichen list and lenses to inspect them with. Her clear explanations and enthusiasm made her trips a joy. "Judy, look at this!" I cried. "Oh isn't that wonderful," she exclaimed, and went on to advance my understanding of the lichen I was so excited about. She was such a credit to the earth, so many people must be saddened by losing her.
M.L. Carle
We invite you to join CNPS

Name ____________________________
Address __________________________
City/Zip __________________________
Phone ____________________________
Email ____________________________

Chapter affiliation:
☐ Milo Baker (Sonoma County)
☐ Other county _____________________

Membership category:
☐ Student or Limited Income........... $25
☐ Individual.................................. $45
☐ Family, Group or Library............. $75
☐ Plant Lover............................. $100
☐ Patron...................................... $300
☐ Benefactor.............................. $600
☐ Mariposa Lily........................... $1500

☐ New Member  ☐ Renewal

Make check payable to CNPS and mail to:
CNPS, 2707 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95816

To pay by credit card or for more info call
916.447.2677 or visit www.cnps.org

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
Milo Baker Chapter
P.O. Box 892
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Lilium pardalatum ssp. pitkinense
Pitkin lily

Newsletter & Web Site Info:
Send newsletter submissions to:
Editor, cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoo.com
Deadline for inclusion in the October
Newsletter is Sept. 15.
The chapter web site www.cnpsmb.org
contains a wealth of information plus
current and archived newsletters.
To receive notification of the online newsletter,
for newsletter mailing/membership issues,
contact: Gary Hundt, ghundt@gmail.com

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